

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION CHECKLIST

Project: Alameda County Private Ranches Outreach

Date: August 15, 2007

Nature of Action: Provide \$205,000 from the Central Valley Project Conservation Program to Alameda County Resource Conservation District (ACRCD) for continued and expanded planning/outreach efforts for habitat planning and protection on private ranches in Alameda County.

Location: Workshops and planning assistance in rural Western Alameda County

Exclusion Category: 516 DM 2 Appendix 1, 1.10. Activities which are educational, informational, advisory, or consultive to other agencies, public and private entities, visitors, individuals, or the general public.

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|----|--|--|
| 1. | This action or group of actions will have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain ___ Yes ___ |
| 2. | This action or group of actions will have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources. | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain ___ Yes ___ |
| 3. | This action will have significant impacts on public health or safety. | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain ___ Yes ___ |
| 4. | This action will have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain ___ Yes ___ |

migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.

5. This action will have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.

No ☒ Uncertain ___ Yes ___

6. This action will establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.

No ☒ Uncertain ___ Yes ___

7. This action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulative significant environmental effects.

No ☒ Uncertain ___ Yes ___

8. This action will have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by bureau or office

No ☒ Uncertain ___ Yes ___

9. This action will have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species

No ☒ Uncertain ___ Yes ___

On June 21, 2007, Reclamation initiated informal consultation with the Service on the activities for projects in the CVPCP and the HRP for Fiscal Year 2007. The Service concurred on August 21, 2007 that the projects, including this Alameda Outreach study, are not likely to adversely affect listed species.

10. This action threatens to violate Federal, state, local, or tribal law or requirements imposed for protection of the environment.

No ☒ Uncertain ___ Yes ___

11. This action will have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898). No ☒ Uncertain ___ Yes ___
12. This action will limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites. No ☒ Uncertain ___ Yes ___
13. This action will affect Indian Trust Assets (To be completed by Reclamation official responsible for ITAs) No ☒ Uncertain ___ Yes ___
14. This action will contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species. (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112) No ☒ Uncertain ___ Yes ___

NEPA Action: Categorical Exclusion ☒ EA ___ EIS ___

Environmental commitments, explanation, and/or remarks:

This project will raise ranchers' awareness and understanding of special-status species whose habitats are found on their land; to help them maintain, improve and protect these habitats; to support other local efforts to restore and protect habitat on privately owned rangelands.

- Conduct "Ranch Habitat Planning" workshops. Workshops will train landowners and land managers on how to recognize, manage, and enhance habitat for special status species, and how these species and their habitat can be assets instead of liabilities.
- Develop detailed Conservation Plans for interested workshop attendees and other interested ranchers as funding allows. Use the NRCS planning process, in which the landowner, manager, and conservation planners inventory the property's natural resource concerns, determine goals, and form and evaluate management alternatives.
- Provide one-on-one consultation on conservation easements to participants, and to participants of the wildlife-friendly stockpond restoration program. Consultation will help landowners develop ranch protection strategies (what parts of the ranch to place under an easement, tax arrangements, etc.), pursue easement opportunities, and go through the process of securing an easement.
- Outreach to ranchers on above activities. Use existing mailing list, local newspapers, and the newsletter of the local Farm Bureau/Cattlemen's Association to target outreach towards the neighbors of existing participants in the wildlife-friendly stockpond restoration program.
- Provide training to conservation planners on habitat assessment and stewardship. This will be provided "on-the-job" in the conservation planning process. Field visits and follow-up technical assistance by ecological consultants will be used as opportunities for staff training.
- Evaluate and refine the program on an annual basis. Evaluate and adjust the workshop component, based on attendance and feedback.


Approved:

Preparer's Name and Title: Douglas McEnis Date: 8-22-07
Environmental Specialist

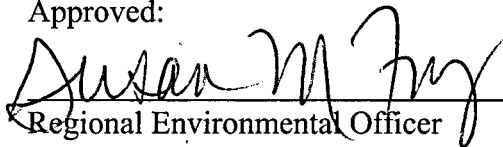
Regional Archeologist concurrence with Item 7: See attachment

ITA Designee concurrence with Item 10: See attachment

Concurrence:

 Date: 8-30-07
Program Manager, Central Valley Project Conservation Program

Approved:

 Date: 9-4-07
Regional Environmental Officer

From: Adam Nickels
To: Kleinsmith, Douglas
Date: 8/31/2007 3:40:50 PM
Subject: CEC Alameda County Private Ranches Outreach

Project no. 07-SCAO-302

The proposed action to provide \$205,00.00 from the Reclamation's Central Valley Project Conservation Program to the Alameda County Resource Conservation District for the purpose of the continued expansion and planning outreach efforts for habitat planning and protection on private ranches in Alameda County has no potential to affect historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.3(a)(1).

The action is a grant funding action that will result and is administrative in nature.

Location: Alameda County

Exclusion Category 516 DM 2 Appendix 1,1.10

This concludes the Section 106 process for this undertaking. Please retain a copy of this concurrence with the CEC file. Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Adam Nickels

Adam M. Nickels
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From: Patricia Rivera
To: Kleinsmith, Douglas
Date: 8/31/2007 11:42:59 AM
Subject: Re: CVPCP 2007 CECs ITA Requests

Doug,

I have reviewed the six Categorical Exclusion Checklists for the CVPCP projects per your request . All are studies, plans, or community outreach with no construction, land purchase or surface disturbance.

The Pine Hills Preserve fuels reduction plan: The proposed action does not affect Indian Trust Assets. The nearest ITA to the proposed site is approximately 3 miles ESE and it is the Shingle Springs Rancheria.

The Tipton kangaroo rat relocation study: The proposed action does not affect Indian Trust Assets. The nearest ITA to the proposed site is approximately 28 miles ENE and it is the Tule River Reservation.

The California tiger salamander genetics study: The proposed action does not affect Indian Trust Assets. The nearest ITA to the proposed site is approximately 35 miles WNW and it is the Lytton Rancheria.

The Alameda County private ranches outreach: The proposed action does not affect Indian Trust Assets. The nearest ITA to the proposed site is approximately 38 miles WNW and it is the Lytton Rancheria.

The riparian brush rabbit genetics study: The proposed action does not affect Indian Trust Assets. The nearest ITA to the proposed site is approximately 26 miles SSW and it is a Public Domain Allotment.

The propagation and reproduction of the metcalf jewelflower study: The proposed action does not affect Indian Trust Assets. The nearest ITA to the proposed site is approximately 35 miles SE and it is the a Public Domain Allotment.

Patricia

>>> Douglas Kleinsmith 8/23/2007 2:50 PM >>>

Patricia,

Attached are ITA requests for the six Categorical Exclusion Checklists for the CVPCP projects. All are studies, plans, or community outreach with no construction, land purchase or surface disturbance.

Doug